

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
PANCANAL
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 104019

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, PN

SUBJECT:U.S.-PANAMA TREATY NEGOTIATIONS: WEEKLY ACTIVITIES
REPORT - APRIL 30 - MAY 6

1. HOUSE REJECTS LIMIT ON TREATY TALKS. BY A VOTE OF 220
TO 182 THE HOUSE ON MAY 4 TURNED BACK AN ATTEMPT BY REP.
DORNAN (R-CALIF.) TO AMEND THE STATE DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZA-
TION BILL SO AS TO RESTRICT FUNDING FOR THE CANAL TREATY
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NEGOTIATIONS. THE HOUSE ACCEPTED SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE
SPONSORED BY REP. BUCHANAN (R-ALA.) AND SUPPORTED BY THE
STATE DEPT. REPLACING REP. DORNAN'S AMENDMENT.

THIS WAS THE THIRD SUCCESSIVE YEAR THAT HOUSE OPPONENTS OF
TREATY REVISION HAVE ATTEMPTED TO STYMY THE NEGOTIATIONS.
THIS YEAR'S VOTE OF 54.7 PERCENT IN SUPPORT OF THE NEGO-

TIATIONS WAS VIRTUALLY THE SAME AS LAST YEAR, WHEN AN IDENTICAL AMENDMENT SPONSORED BY REP. SNYDER (R-KY.) WAS REJECTED 197-157.

IN THIS YEAR'S VOTE 171 DEMOCRATS AND 49 REPUBLICANS VOTED FOR THE BUCHANAN SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE. 95 DEMOCRATS AND 87 REPUBLICANS VOTED AGAINST. EFFORTS BY FRIENDLY HOUSE MEMBERS AND STAFFERS TO MUSTER SUPPORT FOR THE BUCHANAN PROPOSAL WENT SMOOTHLY DESPITE ONLY THREE-HOURS LEAD TIME

IN WHICH TO ORGANIZE.

2. MAY ROUND. THE MAY 1977 ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS IS SCHEDULED TO COMMENCE AT 10:00 A.M. MAY 9. ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO PERMIT THE PRESS TO HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO PHOTOGRAPH THE NEGOTIATORS AT THE START OF THE FIRST SESSION, AND WE ANTICIPATE THAT THERE WILL BE SUBSTANTIAL MEDIA INTEREST AND COVERAGE OF THE PANAMA ISSUE. THE SUPPORT GROUP HAS COMPLETED PAPERS FOR THE NEGOTIATORS WHICH DEAL WITH THE MAJOR ISSUES.

AS REPORTED BY THE EMBASSY, PANAMA INITIATED A PRESS ATTACK ON THE U.S. DURING THE COURSE OF THE WEEK, FOCUSSED PARTICULARLY ON AN INTERVIEW WHICH GENERAL MCAULIFFE GAVE THE AP. THIS RESULTED IN A SMALL STUDENT DEMONSTRATION IN FRONT OF THE U.S. EMBASSY. THE NATIONAL GUARD APPEARS TO BE PLANNING A MILITARY EXERCISE WHICH WILL OCCUR WHILE NEGOTIATIONS ARE IN PROGRESS

3. BRIEFING FOR MRS CARTER TRIP TO LATIN AMERICA
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AMBASSADORS BUNKER AND LINOWITZ BRIEFED MRS. CARTER ON THE NEGOTIATIONS MAY 6. THE FIRST LADY IS SCHEDULED TO MAKE A LATIN AMERICAN VISIT IN LATE MAY AND EARLY JUNE.

4. BRIEFING FOR AMBASSADOR TODMAN'S TRIP TO LATIN AMERICA. MINISTER BELL AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR WYROUGH BRIEFED AMBASSADOR TODMAN ON THE NEGOTIATIONS PRIOR TO THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY'S DEPARTURE ON A GET-ACQUAINTED TRIP TO LATIN AMERICA. ARA/PAN ALSO PROVIDED TALKING POINTS FOR HIS USE IN MEETINGS WITH LATIN AMERICAN OFFICIALS.

5. LEWIS ARRIVAL. PANAMANIAN AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE GABRIEL LEWIS GALINDO ARRIVED IN WASHINGTON ON THE EVENING OF MAY 5, AND PRESENTED COPIES OF HIS CREDENTIALS THE FOLLOWING AFTERNOON TO ACTING SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER. AS THE APPOINTED AMBASSADOR, HE WILL NOW BE ABLE TO DEAL WITH THE DEPARTMENT ON ALL MATTERS, INCLUDING THE NEGOTIATIONS. MINISTER BELL HOSTED A RECEPTION IN LEWIS' HONOR AFTER THE CHRISTOPHER MEETING.

6. VISIT OF U.S. LABOR OFFICIALS. MR. WILLIAMS, PRESIDENT OF THE PANAMA CANAL PILOTS' ASSOCIATION, AND MR. KANALY, AFL-CIO PANAMA CANAL TREATY COMMITTEE, MET WITH THE U.S. NEGOTIATORS ON MAY 5 TO DISCUSS LABOR RELA-

TIONS MATTERS UNDER THE NEW TREATY. WILLIAMS DESCRIBED THE PERCEPTION OF THE PILOTS' ASSOCIATION REGARDING LABOR BENEFITS IN CONNECTION WITH THE NEW TREATY. THE ASSOCIATION BELIEVES THAT THE KEY PROTECTION IS AN EARLY RETIREMENT PROVISION THAT WOULD PROVIDE AN ADEQUATE ASSURANCE TO THE WORK FORCE TO STAY ON. MR. KANALY DESCRIBED THE 1976 AFL-CIO POSITION ON LABOR PROTECTIONS AND NOTED THAT GEORGE MEANY HAD WRITTEN THE SECRETARY ASKING FOR LABOR PARTICIPATION IN PREPARATION OF EMPLOYEE PROTECTIONS.

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7. ECONOMIC ARRANGEMENTS. A REPORT ON THE NEW CANAL ENTITY REVENUE STRUCTURE WAS COMPLETED BY THE U.S. TECHNICAL TEAM THAT VISITED PANAMA. THE STUDY CONSIDERS TRAFFIC AND REVENUES, THE ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF INCREASED TOLLS AND CANAL OPERATING EXPENSES DURING THE NEW TREATY PERIOD.

8. CONGRESS SAVES PANAMA MIL GROUP. DURING A MAY 3 MARK-UP SESSION, THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE VOTED TO REINSTATE PANAMA ON THE LIST OF COUNTRIES AUTHORIZED MILITARY GROUPS UNDER PENDING SECURITY ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION. PREVIOUSLY PANAMA HAD BEEN DELETED ALONG WITH ALL OTHER WESTERN HEMISPHERE COUNTRIES. THE MOTION WAS MADE BY REP. LAGOMARSINO (R-CALIF.), WHO EXPLAINED THAT A MILITARY GROUP WAS NEEDED IN PANAMA IN VIEW OF PROSPECTIVE CHANGES IN THE TREATY ARRANGEMENTS GOVERNING THE CANAL.

IN PARALLEL SENATE ACTION, THE FOREIGN RELATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE THIS WEEK APPROVED A SECURITY ASSISTANCE BILL AUTHORIZING A MILITARY GROUP IN PANAMA.

9. DARIEN GAP HIGHWAY. THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION PETITIONED THE U.S. DISTRICT COURT ON MAY 2 FOR A FURTHER PARTIAL STAY OF THE OCTOBER '75 INJUNCTION AGAINST U.S. PARTICIPATION IN THE HIGHWAY PROJECT. DOT IS SEEKING PERMISSION TO UNDERTAKE ADDITIONAL WORK IN PANAMA, PENDING FINAL RESOLUTION OF THE CASE. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LUERS SUBMITTED AN AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, SUPPORTING, ON FOREIGN POLICY GROUNDS, THE IMMEDIATE LIFTING OF THE INJUNCTION FOR ALL WORK AS FAR EAST AS YAVISA. WE HOPE FOR AN EARLY DECISION. CHRISTOPHER

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